

In fact

For The Millions Who Want a Free Press

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We Are in the War

IN its April 21 issue IN FACT published the headline: "CONVOYS MEAN SHOOTING AND SHOOTING MEANS WAR." The phrase, a quotation from the President, was buried in a Sunday feature story, it had not been headlined anywhere to IN FACT's knowledge. Since then it has become nationally known.

June 9 IN FACT headlined "... AMERICA ENTERS THE WAR."

Many IN FACT readers who write in letters—we read them all but have no time to write 1,100 answers—think we are still living in a peacetime America. They refuse to realize we are in war. There is no declaration, it is true, no mass arrests of Nazis and Fascists, no censorship, no army going overseas as in 1917; but we are in the war and both isolationists and interventionists should realize this.

The financial press does. Here is Dow, Jones & Co's financial letter Nov 13 which states: "President Roosevelt has shown no disposition as yet to ask Congress for a formal declaration of war. The way he has laid out his plans for the next 2 months, it would appear that, if he asks for the declaration, it will not be before early next year. Hitler, of course, can settle the question ... by declaring war. ... He is just as likely to continue undeclared (war) as President Roosevelt is. Benefits to be gained by the US from an outright declaration of hostilities do not seem to be very great. . . ."

Bloodshed and Smears

MODERN racketeering as we know it, from Al Capone to George Boff, originated in the great war between the Hearst papers and the Chicago Tribune. (In all fairness to Col McCormick, it must be emphasized that this was during the Keeley management.) When the gangster O'Bannion was shot to death in his flowershop, he was on the Hearst payroll for \$50 a week. The Tribune's owners spoke frequently about the machineguns in their plant, the fact Tribune gorillas had shot Hearst gorillas to death. All these murderers wanted was the newsstand circulation. When this war ended, the new type racketeers went into gambling, prostitution, and in 1917 into bootlegging. The two papers were not wholly to blame for racketeering, but to a considerable extent.

The newspapers forced a law through city council limiting size of newsstands, so that none but the established ones can be displayed. The newsboys' association is controlled by newspaper owners. "A new paper would have to cope with gang warfare and terrorism if it would establish itself." (The Nation, Jan 9, 1937.)

The Tribune may not resort to mur-

Re-entered as second-class matter March 12, 1941, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the act of March 3, 1879.

80-Year History of Chicago Tribune Unbroken Record Of Falsehood by This Outstanding Enemy of the People

A N EVENT of great importance to the future welfare of the United States is about to occur in Chicago. Since everyone admits that the greatest force in America is the press, and since it is almost as generally admitted that the dominating newspaper of the Middle West, the Chicago Tribune, has falsified the news and has been a great force working against the interests of labor, the farmers, and the social and economic welfare of most citizens, the establishment of a new morning paper in Chicago (as yet unnamed) to serve 12 states with honest news is an event of national interest.

Never in American history have so many people hated a newspaper as much as Chicago hates the Tribune but like the weather, most people never did anything about it. And now Marshall Field III is not only establishing a paper for the Middle West, but is willing to spend \$5,000,000 to keep it going.

The Tribune has fooled its 1,000,000 subscribers, or some 5,000,000 readers, in 12 states, for many years; it has published outright lies and refused to print the truth when these lies were challenged; it has from its beginning hated labor and printed falsehood to harm labor. The O'Mahoney Monopoly Investigation has proven the big corporations and 200 ruling families the leading enemies of America, and the publishers' association the main instrument of these enemies; the Chicago Tribune is the most vicious of the instruments, the greatest single enemy of the general welfare of the people of the Middle West.

"World's Greatest" Is America's Worst

These are general statements. But they are backed by facts and documents. The present editor of IN FACT worked for the Tribune for ten years. In addition he has received the evidence of many Tribune men, some still employed, and newspaper men generally, also the results of investigations by scientists, researchers, universities, experts. The total evidence would fill 50 issues of IN FACT. Here are a few samples of lies, falsification, suppressions and anti-labor bias in a journal which calls itself "The World's Greatest Newspaper" and which newspapermen consider America's worst newspaper. But it is not only falsification and suppression which is the Tribune method, it is a general daily and complete slanting of the news to suit the viewpoint of its owner, his financial and social interests and the society which he represents, and which poisons the minds of those among the 5,000,000 Middle Westerners who have no other means of getting the truth. It is true that in no city in America and at no time in history were so many people anxious to see a paper boycotted or destroyed as in Chicago today. But, although many people know the Tribune is their enemy, the majority of its 5,000,000 readers have been influenced and misled by it.

No matter which side the Tribune has been on, it has not hesitated to fake the news to favor its viewpoint. It has been on the side of general welfare—but that was long ago. In 1858 it was for Lincoln. It fought slavery. In the Lincoln-Douglas debates it was so partisan to Lincoln that it garbled and distorted Douglas' speeches, printed Lincoln's honestly. (Source: Edgar Lee Masters, "Tale of Chicago," page 132.)

In 1864, after Joseph Medill had helped elect Lincoln, he headed a delegation protesting the draft. Lincoln was very angry with the Tribune owner. He said to him: "You, Medill, you are acting like a coward. You and your Tribune have had more influence than any paper in the Northwest in making this war. You can influence great masses, and yet you cry to be spared, at a moment when your cause is suffering." (Source: Ida M Tarbell, Life of Abraham Lincoln, Vol. II, p 149.)

And although Medill fought human slavery, he did his best to encourage wage slavery. He fought the labor movement, the 8-hour day, unions, and every attempt to better the life of the common man. When hard times came Joseph Medill published an editorial favoring the poisoning of the unemployed. That was his idea of solving the crisis of 1877.

From 1873 through the panic years unemployment increased, thousands of men began to roam the country, looking for work. The wealthy were scared. Chicago passed a Vagrant Law making all unemployed subject to arrest. A

reader asked the Chicago Tribune what to do with the barefooted and ragged who came begging for food. The reader called the unemployed tramps and also accused them of theft. The Tribune editor replied (July 12, 1877):

"The (Vagrant) Law, while an improvement on the old one, is not of much use for suburban districts, where officers are scarce and Justices of Peace hard to find. The simplest plan, probably, where one is not a member of the Humane Society, is to put a little strychnine or arsenic in the meat and other supplies furnished the tramps. This produces death within a comparatively short period of time, is a warning to other tramps to keep out of the neighborhood. . . ."

80 Years of Faking News Against Labor

The faking of news to harm labor, which began in the 1850's is continued by McCormick to the present day. The Tribune has fought organized labor, from the Knights of Labor to the AFL to the CIO. In all labor history the press has been unfair to labor; this is admitted by even newspapers which claim that since the Roosevelt New Deal there has been a change for the better. This may be so, but a vote of labor editors taken a few months ago showed that 92% believe the press today is still unfair.

The greatest proof in modern history that the press publishes tremendous lies for the purpose of smashing labor was the treatment of the Memorial Day massacre in Chicago in 1937. It is true that when the Paramount news reel—which the St Louis Post-Dispatch forced into the open after attempts at suppression—showed that labor was entirely innocent, the police entirely to blame for the coldblooded murder of 10 peaceful strikers, many newspapers did print this fact. But not the Chicago Tribune.

The Tribune stuck to its lies after the proof was given to the world. It stuck to its lies after the newspapermen who were present at the massacre testified before a Congressional investigating commission that the police were murderers, the strikers blameless. The Tribune ran an editorial saying the massacre was justified because property must be protected. Although the victims of the police were shot in the back, although the newsreel shows the police starting the shooting without reason, and murdering men who were doing nothing but watching, the Tribune editorial yelled "reds." It said the blood of the dead was on the hands of John L Lewis, whereas the LaFollette investigation proved it was on the hands of the police, who were in the service of Tom Girdler and Republic Steel Corporation. Finally, when the liberal press, including the official newspapermen's paper, Guild Reporter, showed that the Tribune had completely falsified the news, and the Civil Liberties Union proved once again that the corporations, not labor, are responsible for almost all cases of bloodshed and violence, the Tribune switched its attack on John L Lewis and accused him of living in luxury. To this Robert Allen (of Pearson & Allen) replied:

"The report about John L Lewis's \$25,000 a year salary and the story of his 'waxing rich' is false and untrue. . . . I don't know anything about Lewis's personal affairs, but he is no more rich than you or I. The fact that such a story has appeared in the Chicago Tribune should be enough to stigmatize it as a lie. I wonder if that rag ever prints a word of truth about anything except racing and baseball results." (Progressive, Aug 28 1937).

Curiously enough on Nov 18, 1941 the Allen-Pearson column smeared Lewis for that same \$25,000 salary.

A KuKluxKlan Newspaper

The KuKluxKlan was in its second childhood in 1921. It had millions of members—its peak was about 6,000,000 before its decline began three or four years later. The Chicago Tribune was one of the few big papers which openly favored the Klan.

In 1921 Bernard Shaw canceled a visit to America. He wrote:

"I have no intention of going to prison with Debs or taking my wife to Texas, where KuKluxKlan mobs snatch white women from out of hotel verandas and tar and feather them."

The Chicago Tribune suppressed the name of the KuKluxKlan. Its version read just "mobs."

This was on April 19. On April 16 the Tribune had carried a full page ad (netting the owners thousands of dollars) signed by Imperial Wizard Simmons of the KKK and saying:

"The Knights of the KKK is a lawabiding, legally chartered, standard, fraternal order, designed to teach and inculcate the purest ideals of American citizenship, with malice towards none and justice to every citizen regardless of race, color or creed."

When readers protested that the ad was a lie, that the Klan attacked Catholics, Jews and Negroes, and was barred to them, the Tribune replied (Aug 27) that the old KKK had been created because of intolerable conditions and "danger of Negro domination," and although evils were committed in its name, it served an important end, while "contributing one of the romantic episodes of our history." The new KKK, continued the Tribune, was virtually the old. "All the

derous gangsterism again as it did in 1910, but the smearing has begun. Marshall Field, owner of new paper, is accused by Tribune owner McCormick of "tax evasion" because he would lose only \$200,000 of each million lost in the new venture, as \$800,000 would have gone for taxes. The truth is that McCormick and Patterson started Liberty magazine on just that basis. Also Mr Justice Black produced the evidence when he was a Senator that the Tribune evaded paying its taxes.

"Damn the Millions"

FOR about a hundred years American newspapermen have deplored the fact that billions have been given for social and civic betterment, libraries, medical foundations, good works but not one cent for a free press, the most necessary weapon for a free America. The nearest thing was the million left Harvard by Lucius Nieman for a dozen newspapermen to be re-educated there each year.

Now comes Marshall Field III who subsidized PM and is establishing the new Chi daily, subtitled "An Honest Newspaper." Mr Field is one of the richest men in America. The low estimate is \$100,000,000. Those who saw Citizen Kane will remember the banker warning Kane (Hearst) that he would lose a million a year. Kane replied he could do it for 60 years. In actual life Hearst fooled the public with small crusades, then went over to the side of the Big Money, profiteering, advertising and other enemies of the nation.

It takes about \$5,000,000 to start a big city paper. Stern of the NYPost sank \$3,800,000 into it; it cost about \$10,000,000 to make the World-Telegram make money. Field says he is prepared to spend that \$5,000,000 in Chi. Mr Field has no interest in money. At a conference of the American Public Welfare Ass'n recently he said:

"I don't know what is going to happen to me. I happen to have been left a great deal of money. I don't know what is going to happen to it, and I don't give a damn. If I can't make myself worthy of three square meals a day, I don't deserve them."

Renegade Socialist Replies

FIELD will receive the last instalment of his fortune (highest estimate \$300,000,000) in 1943. He will be 50. He has become a liberal, broadminded, humanitarian. Joseph Medill Patterson, co-owner with McCormick of Trib, NYD News, paper and power plants in Canada, was a liberal, broadminded, humanitarian once. In 1905 he joined the Socialist Party and wrote "Confessions of a Drone." He denounced the Chicago real estate situation and suggested the Henry George single tax as a solution. (Ironically enough, it was the school land and tax situation which resulted in Black's accusing the Trib of evasion of millions of taxes.)

McCormick, Patterson & Co are worth more than \$100,000,000. But all they are interested in today is more money. Not one of the outfit has ever done a thing for the general welfare of America. In 1936 and later, Patterson was a great New Dealer and those who knew him as a Socialist hoped he would come back to the liberal fold. Today Patterson is much closer to Hitler than to Roosevelt. He has for the first time in his life ranged himself alongside his

cousin, McCormick, whom he used to hate and denounce for his greed, ignorance of social-economic matters, and lack of common humanity. Today Patterson outdoes McCormick in attempting to smear Marshall Field. On Nov 7 Patterson printed a story about Field and his doctor, the wellknown psychiatrist Gregory Zilboorg. It contained little news, much speculation, dirty digs, innuendo. For example the following paragraphs which are not news but dirt:

"The announcement suggested a personality change. . . . It might be put like this:

"Field plus 3 marriages equals one surfeited clubman.

"Field plus Zilboorg equals one high-pressure newspaper proprietor.

"Field minus Zilboorg equals . . . ?"

The important fact is that Marshall Field after passing the age of 45 or 46 has engaged in work having a social value and that Joe Patterson, who as a youth swore to devote his life to work of social value has on reaching 60 devoted himself to nothing but money-hoarding. These are the facts. (Editorially one might suggest that Patterson visit Zilboorg and take the treatment Field took.)

Two Sour Notes

FROM 1936 to 1939 many American papers and magazines slanted the news to favor Franco in Spain, his own Fascists and Hitler's and Mussolini's men. The weeklies Time and Newsweek were notorious offenders. IN FACT's present editor, editor of Ken in 1937, wrote a protest to Newsweek editor Rex Smith, received an unsatisfactory reply. Silliman Evans will publish Field's paper; Rex Smith is managing editor. A research worker writes IN FACT that Rex Smith was closely associated with Sen Robert Reynolds in a plan to launch him for the presidency in 1944. Reynolds is Huey Long's successor as leading pro-Fascist in Congress. When Ken printed an exposé of Reynolds' fascism, Newsweek ran a piece favoring the Senator.

H R Knickerbocker is the new paper's chief foreign correspondent. He was Hearst man with Franco in Spain. In a story in "Cosmopolitan" Knickerbocker describes a terrible atrocity he eyewitnessed. The atrocities were committed by Franco's men (who wore the Sacred Heart of Jesus on their uniform) but this fact is not mentioned.

Fascism in US Navy

THE "N" badges for Negro workers used at the Philadelphia Navy Yard have been made standard by the Navy Department, Ralph A Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, admits.

Bard informed Nat'l Ass'n for Advancement of Colored People that the badge was developed for emergency use

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great fraternal orders," it added, "which accomplish so much quiet good . . . make use of this natural liking for mysterious rites and secret ties, and the new Klan will hardly be denied the right to adopt the same policy." At this time the KKK had already been accused of murders, and much terrorism. "The head of the order repudiates them," concluded the Tribune. More recently its smear of Hugo Black (now U S Justice) was based on an alleged KKK membership card.

\$5,000 to Prove Tribune a Liar

On occasions the Chicago Times, the Madison Capital-Times and LaFollette's Progressive have offered rewards of \$1,000 and \$5,000 to anyone who could prove that certain items in the Tribune were not lies. The rewards were not claimed, the Tribune did not sue for libel. On the other hand the Tribune, caught lying, did not attempt to explain or apologize.

The Times, Aug 28, 1936, offered \$5,000 "if the Tribune or any other newspaper can prove to the satisfaction of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the ANPA that the Tribune dispatch from Donald Day datelined Riga, Latvia, Aug 8, with its heading, is true." The fake story said that "Moscow has ordered 'reds' in the United States to back Roosevelt against Landon." Four years later Col McCormick in a nationwide radio speech, again repeated the Donald Day story. (WOR, Feb 15, 1940, 10 pm)

On Oct 29, 1938 the Progressive offered \$1,000 to anyone who could prove that Washington correspondent Chesly Manly's story headlined "New Deal Hit in Red Inquiry" was not false. In that story the Tribune said "LaFollette's so-called inquiry (into denial of civil liberties and rights of labor) was conceived by John L Lewis, dictator of the CIO and political ally of Mr Roosevelt." The Tribune heading using the word "red" was a smear; the story, the Progressive said, was a lie, and it would donate \$1,000 to the Tribune charity fund if it was proven not to be a lie. The Tribune did not reply.

It is not often that a President of the United States calls a paper or a news service a liar, but it has happened more frequently of late. President Roosevelt has denounced Hearst, Roy Howard's United Press (IN FACT, July 16, p 4) and the Chicago Tribune for their lies used for political purposes against him and his party.

On Aug 26 the President at his press conference denounced several stories "as examples of the vicious rumors, distortions of facts, or just plain dirty falsehoods." The cause of the outburst was a Chicago Tribune story signed Walter Trohan appearing in the Washington Times-Herald. This story was in line with the Tribune policy on Lend-Lease.

No American newspaper outside the Hearst and Howard chains has fought labor so viciously as the Tribune. Not satisfied with smearing the CIO, distorting the news, using headlines, editorials, bias, perversion against labor, the Tribune also resorted to falsehood. On Nov 27, 1938 the Tribune had the following sensational headline:

"CIO STRANGLES SAN FRANCISCO, INDUSTRIES DIE"

This, one of the many sensational stories blaming everything on labor, appeared on the front page, continuing to p 4. The main "fact" revealed, after the usual buncombe and propaganda and wild false generalities was that the situation created by the CIO auto workers was so bad that the Chevrolet plant moved away to Los Angeles.

A L Kennedy, manager, industrial dep't, Oakland Chamber of Commerce protested this Tribune lie. He wrote:

"In the first place, the Chevrolet automobile assembly plant is not located in San Francisco; it is located in Oakland. In the second place and most important, it did not move to Los Angeles; it is still here. Furthermore, it has never had to operate under strike conditions. . . . In fairness to this community a retraction is in order."

After lying on pages 1 and 4, the Tribune printed exactly 2 1/4 inches of Kennedy's protest as a letter to the editor! (Jan 4, 1939).

Unscrupulous Enemy of WPA

Another favorite subject on which not only the Tribune but many more respected papers lied frequently, is WPA. Every reactionary pro-fascist anti-labor paper, and notably Hearst today, is still fighting civilian aid, although unemployment figures still hover around 4,000,000. The Tribune naturally was not content with posed pictures of workmen leaning on shovels. It came out with two weeks of falsehood of which the following is a typical heading:

GRAFT, FRAUDS, THEFT; WPA REEKS WITH CORRUPTION

Howard O Hunter, ass't WPA administrator, invited 19 Chicago newspapermen to his office and handed them a 25-page statement proving all 14 stories in the Tribune false. He said the Tribune engaged in "deliberate, vicious, and wholesale lying." The pictures showing lazy men were taken at a private sewer-digging job. One picture had been changed between editions because its background showed many men at work. The Tribune writer had been discharged from WPA

for drunkenness. But Hunter did not blame the reporter or Managing Editor Rob't M Lee. He called Publisher McCormick "vicious," and "irrational." Said Hunter:

"Every statement published by the Tribune was found to be false. . . . Ordinarily we would not dignify such accusations made by the Chicago Tribune by going to the trouble of answering them, because any intelligent person in Chicago knows that such charges have been faked and trumped up by the Tribune for years.

"But when column after column is pawned off on the public as news, none of which has any foundation, when columns are used to falsely attack individual unemployed citizens and to misrepresent to the public the work they are doing, it is time that the public is acquainted with the truth surrounding the publication of these articles."

The Tribune of course printed not a word about the Hunter documentation, but its brasscheck polisher, the cartoonist Carey Orr, continued to draw pictures slandering WPA.

Chi Trib "Unfair," "Least Reliable," "Liar"

It is significant that in the newspaper profession everyone knows that the Chicago Tribune is the most unfair and least reliable paper in the country, and many trustworthy journalists have openly accused the Tribune of lying.

The Washington press corps is the elite of the profession. Most of its members are highly paid. Some of them have the same financial interests as their employers; some lead a double life, writing the propaganda to suit their owners but retaining a free and liberal mind. The latter are certainly not brasscheck polishers of the Pegler variety; they are not prostitutes. Proof of this was given when Leo Rosten took numerous polls for his documentary book, "The Washington Correspondents" in which these journalists told the truth.

Rosten asked the Washington corps to vote for the least fair and least reliable paper in America. Ninety-three replied. Eighty-seven voted the Hearst chain (19 papers) the worst in the country, but the single paper voted the least fair and least reliable was the Chicago Tribune (71 votes). Second paper was the Los Angeles Times, 25 votes; next Roy Howard's Scripps-Howard chain (18 papers) with 13 votes. Rosten also took a vote for the best papers and of 99 journalists only 1 voted for the Tribune, which was tied with several for last place. Inasmuch as several Tribune men participated, the result is all the more striking. Similarly in a vote for news services, with several Hearst men voting, the votes in favor of Hearst were less than the number of Hearst men participating.

"It is certainly no news to anyone who deals with the news," writes the Washington correspondent of The American Guardian (Aug 29), "that the Chicago Tribune never hesitates about lying about anything when it suits its purpose to do so. In 1936, when I was actively covering the political campaign, I kept a file of the Chicago Tribune's lies regarding the New Deal legislation and the various acts of Roosevelt during his first term in the Presidency.

"These lies were so blatant that they didn't fool the people of Illinois, or the readers of the Tribune in what is known as the Chicago district. . . . It isn't the outrageous lies published in such papers as the Tribune which are responsible for the people being fooled. It's the clever lying; it's the careful coloring of the news to give a false impression of what is really happening that does the real job of fooling the people to their own undoing. We have papers in America which are infinitely more harmful to the public good than the Chicago Tribune."

The fact is that the Tribune in addition to lying openly also colors and distorts the news. The writer claims that the Chicago district is not deceived. This is open to scientific investigation.

(As for the statement that there are more harmful, more subtly colored newspapers, IN FACT's first vote would go to the New York Times and IN FACT has a documentation of 200,000 words to prove it. However no book publisher would dare print such a book because books are made or killed by Times book reviewers. IN FACT also has a 200,000 word documentation of Chi Trib suppressions of news, bias and distortion. Do readers outside the Middle West want more facts on this paper?)

at a West Coast Yard and that by instructions of the Navy was made standard "some six months ago." He asserted that the letters "W" (for white) and "N" (for Negro) are inconspicuous and cannot be construed to be discriminatory. Bard added: "Letter to designate the race of the individuals concerned . . . are not merely restricted to the white and colored races but many others."

The NAACP replied: "The question is not whether the designation is 'discriminatory' or not. It is humiliating, insulting, and unnecessary. It offers a gratuitous affront to Negro American citizens by labeling them (as though a man with a colored skin needed to be labeled) in much the same manner as the labels used by the Nazis to designate Jews from so-called Aryans in Germany."

World Record

THE first line of an article by Louis Fischer in the Oct 25 Nation is: "I think I can solve the riddle of Rudolf Hess." The story then told with this colossal fanfare is just what IN FACT published June 30 about Hess's plan to end the war, and make an alliance with Britain to march against Russia.

Several months ago this same journalist wrote a book which also has the capital "I" twice in its first line.

When the Pulitzer prize for egotism is established it will have only one possible choice. A world record of "I's" has been established.

Hitler Unites US Slavs

AMERICAN Slavs—Bulgarians, Carpatho-Russians, Croats, Czechs, Macedonians, Poles, Russians, Serbs, Slovaks, Slovenes, Ukrainians, and White-Russians—have called a Congress of Slav Americans (Carnegie Music Hall, North Side, Pittsburgh Nov 21-23) for the purpose of uniting themselves in the war against Hitler. Increased production for national defense, support of the President, unity of all Slav people against world Fascism, is pledged in the congress call, which is signed by J D Butkovich, president; Stephen Zeman, Exec Sec'y, and Vinko Vuk, treasurer.

Pacifists vs Lindbergh

MEMBERS of the United Pacifist Committee which includes Fellowship of Reconciliation, War Resisters League, etc, write IN FACT protesting the statement Lindbergh is the patron saint of the pacifists. They say they hate Lindbergh. However, the 8 groups listed do not comprise one-tenth of 1% of the pacifists who support Lindbergh. Lindbergh remains the patron saint of pacifists as IN FACT stated, and the Nazi Bund, etc, although the organized pacifists are against him.

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